

Y Whittlesea

Keeping Pets and Animals Policy

1. Purpose

To provide clear guidance on the inclusion of animals and pets in early years services, ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of children, staff, and animals, while enriching children's learning experiences.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, educators, children, families, visitors, and external providers involved in activities with animals within the service. https://acornchildcare.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/FINAL-CCD-Animal-Pet-Policy_V7.9.21-1.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

3. Policy Statement

Y Whittlesea acknowledges the educational and emotional benefits of children interacting with animals. We are committed to:

- Ensuring the health and safety of children, staff, and animals.
- Complying with relevant legislation and guidelines.
- Promoting respectful and ethical treatment of animals.
- Engaging families and the community in decisions regarding animals in the service.

4. Responsibilities

Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor:

- Approve any inclusion of animals in the service.
- Ensure risk assessments are conducted.
- Communicate with families regarding animal-related activities.

Educators and Staff:

- Implement this policy and related procedures.
- Supervise all interactions between children and animals.
- Maintain hygiene and safety standards.

Families:

- Provide information about children's allergies or phobias.
- Support the service's animal-related initiatives.

5. Related Policies and Documents

- Hygiene Policy and Procedure
- [ACECQA Information Sheet: Keeping Pets and Animals in Education and Care Services](#)
- [Victorian Department of Education: Teaching with Animals Policy](#)
- [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act](#)
- [Animal Welfare Victoria Guidelines](#)

6. Legislative and Industry Requirements: [Link](#) to Legislative Compliance Register

7. Consequences of breaching this policy: All elements of this policy must be adhered to, and any breach will be dealt with in accordance with the [YMCA Whittlesea Disciplinary and Termination Policy](#).

8. Policy owner: The GM Early Years is responsible for keeping this policy current - including making amendments as required, and regular reviews as scheduled.

9. **Document Control:** Review of this policy will be undertaken every two years, or prior as required by law, in consultation with appropriate Y People.

Version:	Description of Amendment	Amended by	Date	Release Date
3.0				
2.0				
1.0	Created	Rebecca Davis	4/7/25	July 2025